

20. (Amended) An isolated molecule [having the amino acid sequence shown in FIG. 2] consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO:2.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 6, 7, 9-11 and 20 are amended.

Claims 6,7, 9-11, 19-20 are pending.

II. Support for Claim Amendments

Some claim amendments were made to comply with suggestions made by the examiner.

For the terms "immunologically active" and "hybridization" support is in the specification in at least the following places:

Immunogenic ("Immunologically Active")

<u>Page</u>	<u>Lines</u>	
2	30-31] vaccines, generally immunogenic
3	1-2	
8	12-14	"... an epitope (the necessary binding site for an antibody found on the antigen) for MCA 44-3A6 was identified on the Lab protein expressed by the clone to be PTGEPQ. The epitope represents an important immunodominant sequence; that is, when injected into animals, the animals readily produce antibodies to this sequence..."
8	21-22	"4) the production of Lab antigen <i>in vivo</i> for immunization; and 5) the <i>ex vivo</i> expression of Lab for immunization to produce antibodies;"
9	1-3	at least an epitope of Lab antigen encoded in host cell
9	27-28	Lab protein or antigenic peptides
17	22-27	"Synthetically prepared 'P' peptide can be specifically detected by MCA 44-3A6, and the synthetic peptide was immunogenic in 5 of

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5 mice tested. Computer analysis/modeling also predicted that this epitope would be very immunogenic using computer assisted analysis (GCG programs) (Genetic Computer Group, Madison, WI 53703)."

17	28-31	} "Vaccine Preparations"
18	1-32	
19	1-6	

Hybridization

15	10-11	Sambrook <i>et al.</i> , 1990
15	17-18	"higher stringency hybridization conditions than that allowable for the cDNA can be used..."
20	2-8	stringent conditions including example

III. Applicant Requests Withdrawal of all Remaining Rejections, and Allowance of Claims as Amended

Applicant thanks the examiner for withdrawing almost all of the previous rejections.

With regard to the remaining and new rejections:

Claim 11 is amended to now include a SEQ ID NO.

Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that molecules hybridize with molecules, sequences do not hybridize with sequences. Claim 7 has also been amended to include "stringent conditions" and support for this term in the specification is cited in part II herein.

If required, an expert declaration could be provided to testify that those of skill in the art could appreciate the metes and bounds of claim 7.

Now that "immunologically active" is modified in claim 7, it is believed that the term "fragments" is definite. The modifier, "consisting of at least 6 amino acids in length" has been added to restrict "fragments."

The single letter amino acid code is replaced with the three letter code in the specification and claims.

The term "immunogenic" could be substituted for "immunogenically active."

Claim 9 has been amended to correct the Markush format.

IV. Amended Claim 9 Overcomes the Rejections Over Hodges , Over Korieth and over Jia

Claim 9 has been amended taking the examiner's suggestions into consideration. The meaning of "immunologically active" should be clear, and this term is supported in the specification and is understood by those of skill in the art. On page 6 of the Action, the examiner suggests using "a molecule comprising." This phrase is in amended claim 9.

Claims 6, 7, 10-11, 19 and 20 are also amended. Jia and Korieth should now be removed as a basis for rejection.

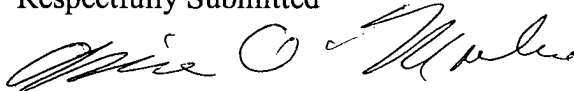
V. Summary and Conclusion

For the reasons stated in the preceding sections, applicants request allowance of all pending claims.

Please contact applicant's representative if you have any questions.

Please charge deposit account 10-0435 for any fees.

Respectfully Submitted



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